REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Amendments

By the present amendment, claim 1 has been amended to remove the possibility that R^2 and R^3 are linked together to form an optionally substituted ring. Claim 15 has been cancelled.

The claim amendments have been made without prejudice and without acquiescing to any of the Examiner's objections. The Applicants submit that no new matter has been entered by the present amendment and entry of the amendments is respectfully requested. The Applicants reserve the right to file any of the cancelled subject matter in a divisional patent application.

The Official Action dated May 30, 2008 has been carefully considered. It is believed that the claims submitted herewith and the following comments represent a complete response to the Examiner's comments and place the present application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

35 USC §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 5-19 and 25-53 under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious in light of Cobley (U.S. Patent No. 6,528,687).

By the present amendment, the Applicant has amended claim 1 to remove the possibility that R^2 and R^3 are linked together to form an optionally substituted ring. For the reasons that follow, the Applicant submits that Cobley does not render obvious the claims of the invention.

The Applicant submits that the catalytic hydrogenation of activated imines is well known in the art. It will be understood by those skilled in the art that activated imines refer to, for example, aryl and benzyl substituted imines, such as the aryl and benzyl groups at the R^3 position disclosed in Cobley. In addition, the Applicant submits that a

person skilled in the art would appreciate that imines are also activated when they form part of a ring system as a result of ring strain.

The Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to the Examples disclosed in Cobley, and in particular, Example 8. The Applicant submits that Example 8 is the only example disclosed in Cobley in which R^3 is not an aryl or benzyl activating substituent. However, R^3 in Example 8 forms part of a cyclic structure, which a person skilled in the art would recognize as an activated imine. As such, the Applicant submits that the imines disclosed in Cobley are all activated imines, which are easily hydrogenated.

The Applicant submits that the imines of presently amended claim 1 are unactivated imines. As such, the Applicant submits that a person skilled in the art would not expect the imines of formula I to be catalytically hydrogenated using the process as taught in the Examples of Cobley. The Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to Examples 1.1-1.7, 1.10 and 1.11, which clearly demonstrate the catalytic hydrogenation of unactivated imines using a ruthenium complex. This result is clearly unexpected and surprising over the teachings of Cobley. As such, the Applicant submits that the Cobley does not render obvious the claims of the present disclosure.

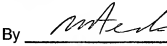
In light of the above, the Applicant requests that the Examiner's rejection of claims 1, 3, 5-19 and 25-53 under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious in light of Cobley be withdrawn.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee (including any claim fee) which may be required to our Deposit Account No. 02-2095.

In view of the foregoing comments and amendments, we respectfully submit that the application is in order for allowance and early indication of that effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner deem it beneficial to discuss the application in greater detail, he is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at (416) 957-1665 at his convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

KAMALUDDIN ABDUR-RASHID

By 

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